

Many know Pat as an expert on water issues, but I also know her as a loving wife to her husband Robert, a devoted mother, and an active leader in her community. I think so highly of Pat and believe she has done such important work for our State and our country. She will surely be missed, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN JOHN JAMES MCGINTY III

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to report some sad news to my colleagues. John James McGinty III—raised in my hometown of Louisville, KY—succumbed to bone cancer on Friday, January 17, after 73 years of life. Although his wife Elaine passed in 1991, he is survived by his sons Michael and John IV. Mr. McGinty was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who received the Medal of Honor for his exemplary record of valor in the Vietnam War. Our country owes him, as we do all of our veterans, an unimaginable debt of gratitude for his service.

John J. McGinty III was born to John and Eve McGinty on January 21, 1940, in Boston, MA. The family soon moved to Louisville, where John completed grammar school and began high school. The call to serve his country, however, rang more loudly and clearly than the school bell. After a year and a half, he dropped out and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in February 1957.

John enlisted in the regular Marine Corps the following year. He served as a drill instructor and a brig officer until 1966, when he volunteered for duty in Vietnam. In June of that year he took part in Operation Hastings, during which his service to his country would extend above and beyond the typical call of duty. Three days into the operation, McGinty's company, reduced to a strength of 100 men, was ordered to withdraw. On July 18, Sergeant McGinty's platoon was providing rear security for the withdrawal when they were attacked by what was estimated to be 1,000 North Vietnamese soldiers.

Amidst the chaos of the attack, two squads from his platoon were cut off and nearly surrounded. Sergeant McGinty rushed through the jungle under a hail of gunfire to find his men in dire straits—20 were wounded and their medical corpsman had been killed. Showing little regard for his own shrapnel wounds to his leg, back, and left eye, Sergeant McGinty reloaded the wounded men's weapons and, according to his Medal of Honor citation, "directed their fire upon the enemy." When the attackers inched closer and closer to his men, Sergeant McGinty drew his .45-caliber pistol and killed five enemy soldiers at point-blank range. Then, with enemies at all sides and still taking heavy gunfire, he accurately called in naval airstrikes to within 50 yards of his position.

His actions that day were consistent with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps, and at a White House ceremony on March 12, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson bestowed upon then-Second Lieutenant McGinty the Medal of Honor.

Although he retired from the Marine Corps as a captain in 1976, Mr. McGinty continued to work to better the lives of America's service men and women. He worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs in various capacities, and along with fellow veterans, made several trips to Iraq and Afghanistan to visit with American troops. He would, however, stop wearing his Medal of Honor after becoming a born-again Christian in the early 1980s. His son Michael McGinty explains, "He didn't have a problem with the honor." Rather, it was the medal's depiction of the Roman goddess Minerva that ran contrary to his deeply held belief that the reason he was still alive is the one true God.

Captain McGinty was modest about his own heroic actions. His son Michael has said, "My father used to say that he did what any Marine sergeant would have done in that situation." There can be no doubt, with his record of valor, however, that CAPT John James McGinty III is indeed a hero, and America has lost a hero with his passing. John's service to his country, both as a U.S. Marine and as a private citizen, is deserving of the highest praise and respect of this body. Thus, I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in honoring and mourning this fallen soldier with roots in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. All Kentuckians, and all Americans, should be honored that he fought to protect us, and grateful for his service and sacrifice.

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today it is with great pride I congratulate all of the 2014 Winter Olympians, especially Tim Jitloff, David Wise, and Chas Guldmond, the three Nevada proudly call their own.

A Reno native, Tim Jitloff grew up on skis and has been claiming international titles since 2005. Tim's unwavering dedication to his sport has developed him into a two-time Olympic athlete, qualifying for the Men's U.S. Ski Team for the first time when he was just 19 years old. In Sochi, he will compete in Alpine skiing's super combined giant and common slalom. Tim's successes extend not only to a first place finish at the 2013 U.S. Championship, but off the snow where he is a determined advocate in the fight against breast cancer, as his mother is a survivor. Tim's passion for service is marked by the respect he has earned on the big snow as well as his earnestness and resounding hard work.

David Wise's Olympic status begins in the Reno snow where he began skiing as a 3-year-old. He turned professional at an early age after securing

his first U.S. national title when he was 15. His wins include The Dew Tour, The Grand Prix, and repeat Winter X Game titles. David continued his achievements in 2013 when he qualified for his first Olympics in this year's debut sport of ski halfpipe. David's dedication to his passion, family, and faith personifies a true talent, unmatched and inspiring for all of Nevada.

Chas "Chuck G" Guldmond has been a driving force in snowboarding since moving to Lake Tahoe in 2005. Working a series of odd jobs to pay his own way for the sport for years is just one of the testaments of character Chas contributes to the 2014 U.S. Olympic team. Chas has had seven healthy seasons of competition and won almost every major event in snowboarding since his early days of participating in the sport. In Sochi, he competes as one of the biggest names in slopestyle. The dedication and sacrifices Chas has made in pursuit of his dream are commendable.

Steadfast in their training, each one of these athletes reminds us that even the seemingly unfathomable is possible. Our American pride grows stronger as these Nevadans compete in Sochi. It is an honor to watch them and the entire team compete in the name of a United States victory in these 22nd Winter Olympics. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these and all of the remarkable athletes on their accomplishments thus far. We wish them a safe and gold-winning trip to Russia.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GERARD GRIMALDI

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the work of Gerard Grimaldi. Gerard has a long history of public service in Kansas City, stretching back to his time serving as an aide to Senator Tom Eagleton and later as an aide to Congressman Alan Wheat. More recently, since 2001, Gerard has ably served as vice president of health policy and government relations for Truman Medical Centers. Everyone who knows Gerard respects him, and everyone who gets to work with him considers themselves lucky.

A few years ago, I asked Gerard to serve as my nominee on a volunteer community advisory panel for the Bannister Complex in Kansas City, MO. This opportunity required a significant time commitment from Gerard—time he would normally spend with his beautiful wife and four lovely children—to serve on a panel which offered Gerard no personal or professional benefit. Not only that, but this panel was created to help facilitate constructive community dialogue around some sensitive issues in a very heated environment. But, true to his background as a public servant, Gerard didn't hesitate when I asked him to volunteer.